

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Lawrenceville United, our growing membership of 900 + residents, and the 10,500 residents that our organization works for and with, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to share our collective thoughts and concerns regarding McConway & Torley and your proposed operating permit.

Lawrenceville United is a non-profit community based organization focused on improving and protecting the quality of life of residents and stakeholders through community engagement and advocacy, community restoration and beautification, and community planning and development. More than 10,500 residents live in Lawrenceville, and thousands more work in the hundreds of businesses located in Lawrenceville. It is the Allegheny County Health Department's responsibility to protect the health of each of these individuals and we appreciate the work that has been done in drafting the proposed operating permit.

The air pollution from steel melting, mold-making, and casting at the plant includes particulate matter, benzene, manganese, and other toxic pollutants which have been proven to cause serious health issues. The fence-line monitor at McConway & Torley has shown that the levels of manganese emitted from the plant surpass both the EPA's IRIS and ATSDA targets. Manganese is a neurotoxin, and excessive exposure can cause cognitive impairment, mood disturbances, and impaired memory, balance, and coordination. Benzene is a carcinogen for which there is no known safe exposure level. Particulate matter can cause or exacerbate asthma and lead to premature death in individuals with heart and lung disease. As we learn more about these toxins and their impacts on human health, we have grown increasingly concerned for our community's health.

Our organization co-sponsored a meeting last week on this issue in partnership with the Lawrenceville Corporation, and it was clear that residents remain concerned with the impact that the facility has on their health. We have received hundreds of calls and complaints regarding dust, odors, and noise coming from the facility. We respectfully request that the Allegheny County Health Department issue a strong permit that protects our health. We also ask that the Health Department continue to monitor the toxins released by McConway & Torley to ensure that the community has access to accurate data that shows the levels of these emissions and so that McConway & Torley can be held accountable for the impact that they have on the community.

We have started conversations with McConway & Torley regarding other quality of life issues that they must address, including noise and traffic. We will continue to invest our own time and energy into helping McConway and Torley mitigate their negative impacts on Lawrenceville, and we ask that the Allegheny County Health Department do the same in regards to the impact the plant has on the community's health.